



THIS WEEK IN OLYMPIA

Week of February 1, 2010

The following information is a brief summary on the bills and key hearings that the Department of Early Learning (DEL) has monitored. This weekly summary is not an indication of bills or positions supported by DEL. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all bills and hearings related to issues impacting early learning.

Bills Introduced

No new bills were introduced that DEL is monitoring

Hearings

- On Tuesday, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a public hearing on **SB 6618**. The bill would require the state Administrator for the Courts to develop and administer a grant program to provide quality child care services to the children of individuals who are attending court proceedings. Representatives from the Jon and Bobbe Bridge Courthouse Drop-In Child Care Center, King County Judicial Administration, and the Children's Home Society of Washington testified about the bill. The TVW archive of this hearing is available [here](#).
- On Wednesday, the House Ways & Means Committee heard public testimony on **SHB 2617**, a bill that would eliminate certain state boards and commissions. The substitute bill would restore the Children and Families with Incarcerated Parents Advisory Committee and the Council for Children and Families—both were cut in the original bill. Testimony was offered by representatives of the Citizens Advisory Council on Alcoholism and Drug Addiction, an association of alcoholism and chemical dependency professionals, the state Noxious Weed Control Board, Washington Women's History Consortium, and the Attorney General's Office. The TVW archive of this hearing is available [here](#).
- On Friday afternoon, the House General Government Appropriations Committee heard testimony on **SHB 2394**. The bill would put into law existing agreements to create government-to-government relationships between state agencies and federally recognized Indian Tribes under the 1989 Centennial Accords. The TVW archive of this hearing is available [here](#).

Bill Action*

- On Monday, the House Ways & Means Committee took executive action on an amended version of **SSB 6503**, a bill that would require each state agency to reduce spending or close its offices on specific dates to save costs. The amended bill would require agencies to save approximately \$50 million in General Fund savings, plus proportionate amounts from other funds. The bill would also require \$10 million savings in compensation for Washington Management Service

employees and exempt employees. SSB 6503 was referred to the House Rules Committee. Find more information about SSB 6503 [here](#).

- On Tuesday, the House Commerce & Labor Committee took executive action on **HB 2444**. This bill would allow employees to take up to four hours of leave without pay per year for participating in a child's educational activities. The bill was referred to the House Rules Committee. Find more information about HB 2444 [here](#).
- On Tuesday, the House Early Learning & Children's Services Committee took executive action on amendments to HB 2867. The original bill would have created a statewide voluntary preschool program for 3- and 4-year-olds. **Substitute House Bill 2867** removes all of the preschool provisions, and would require DEL, Thrive by Five Washington and the Early Learning Advisory Council to develop a plan by December 2010 for providing comprehensive services and supports for children ages birth to 3. Go to the [TVW archives](#) to watch or listen to this meeting.
- On Tuesday, the House Early Learning & Children's Services Committee took executive action on an amended version of **SHB 3141**. The bill originally proposed to redesign the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and develop a phased-in 12-month eligibility period for the Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) subsidy program. **SHB 3141** would require the Governor's WorkFirst subcabinet group to reevaluate the WorkFirst/TANF program and report back to the Legislature by December 2010. The bill does still include the 12-month eligibility provision for WCCC. The TVW archive of this meeting is available [here](#). The bill is scheduled for public hearing in the House Ways & Means Committee on Saturday, February 6.
- On Tuesday, the Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee took executive action on **SB 6695**, a bill changing the number of days of shared leave a public employee is eligible to receive. Find more information about SB 6695 [here](#)
- On Wednesday, the Senate passed **SB 6196**, a bill that clarifies when public employees may receive paid leave for military duty. The bill moved to the House of Representatives, and was referred to the House State Government & Tribal Affairs Committee. Find more information about SB 6196 [here](#).
- On Wednesday, the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee took executive action on **SB 6761**, a bill regarding the recommendations of the Quality Education Council. The bill was referred to the Senate Ways & Means Committee. The TVW archive of this meeting is available [here](#).
- On Thursday, the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee took executive action on **Substitute Senate Bill 6759**, which would require a plan for developing voluntary program of early learning as a part of basic education. It would direct the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and DEL to convene a working group to recommend a comprehensive plan by November 2010. The bill was referred to the Senate Ways & Means Committee. The TVW archive of this hearing is available [here](#).
- On Thursday, the House Education Appropriations Committee held a hearing and took executive action on **SHB 2687**, a bill that creates the home visiting services revenue account in the state treasury, and gives the Department of Early Learning authority to administer the program in

partnership with Thrive by Five Washington. Testifying on the bill were representatives of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, the Clallam County Sheriff's Department, United Ways of Washington, and the United Way of King County. The bill was referred to the House Rules Committee. The TVW archive of this meeting is available at this [link](#).

- On Thursday, the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Committee took executive action on **SB 6668**. This bill expands eligibility for children with disabilities under the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP). The bill was referred to the Senate Rules Committee. The TVW archive of this meeting is available [here](#).
- On Thursday, the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Committee took executive action on **SB 6593**, which would transfer the Infant and Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP) from DSHS to DEL. The bill was referred to the Senate Rules Committee. The TVW archive of this meeting is available [here](#).
- On Friday, the Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee took executive action on **SB 6683**, a bill that would require state agencies to send license renewal notices by electronic means, or to charge licensees for sending renewals by mail. The bill was referred to the Senate Ways & Means committee. Find more information about SB 6683 [here](#).
- On Friday, the House Health & Human Services Appropriations Committee took executive action on **HB 2197**. The bill would abolish the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and replace it with four new agencies to handle the following functions: economic services, medical assistance, health and rehabilitative services, and children's services. At a hearing on Tuesday, Kari Burrell of the Governor's Policy Office and DSHS Secretary Susan Dreyfus testified on the bill. The TVW archive of this hearing is available [here](#).

* Notes on legislative action deadlines:

- Tuesday, February 2 was the deadline for action in House policy committees on bills that originated in the House of Representatives.
- Friday, February 5 was the deadline for action in Senate policy committees on bills that originated in the Senate, and for action on House bills referred to House appropriations committees.
- Tuesday, February 9 is the deadline for committee action on House bills referred to the House Ways and Means Committee, Senate bills referred to Senate fiscal committees, and all transportation bills.

Find more information on legislative action deadlines [here](#).